Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) and (b) Since the amalgamation of the Industries Department with that of Education, the department has been mainly concerned with the supervision of vocational education. With a view to formulate a definite policy and plan a workable programme of Economic Development an Industrial and Economic Survey of the State has been ordered and the report from the Special Officer appointed for the purpose is awaited.

Separate Department for Industries.

140. Mr. Joseph Pettah—Will the Government be pleased to answer the following questions:—

(a) was there not in the State some time ago a separate Department for Industries;

(b) how long was that department under an independent head, directly responsible to the Diwan;

(c) what were the reasons which induced the Government to amalgamate the above department with that of Education on the promotion of Mr. Appu Pisharodi as Comptroller of Accounts;

(d) has not that amalgamation proved a serious handicap to the industrial progress of the State?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) For 6 years from 1095 to 1101.

(c) The operations of the department were watched carefully during the period of its existence and it was considered that the net results so far achieved did not justify its continuance.

(d) Not so far as the Government is aware.

Function of the Director of Public Instruction in respect of the Industries Department.

141. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Will the Government be pleased to answer the following questions:—

(a) what are the functions at present of the Director of Public Instruction in his capacity as the head of the Department of Industries in the State;

(b) have the Government started any industries, since the amalgamation of the Department of Industries with that of Education, either by way of demonstrating to the public the economic feasibility of such industries or as source of income for the Government?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) All administrative functions connected with the control and supervision of vocational education.

(b) No.

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